

## **Vazquez Named MER Commander**

Written by Emerson Smith

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### **Colonel Joseph R. "Joe" Vazquez Named MER Commander**

The new Middle East Region (MER) Commander is Colonel (Col) Joe Vazquez.

Col Vazquez joined the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) in June 1975 as a cadet in the Warner Robins (Georgia) Composite Squadron. When he became a senior member while at the University of Georgia, he was the Deputy Commander for Cadets at the Athens (Georgia) Composite Squadron. He later served in the Augusta (Georgia) Composite Squadron.

He became a pilot in 1985, a mission pilot in 1986 and a flight instructor/check pilot in 1987.

In the Virginia Wing, he served in many offices, including the Commander of the wing. In 2003, he was appointed the MER Vice Commander. In 2007, he became the National Headquarters Director of Operations, where he worked to reduce the size of the CAP Regulation 60-1 from 70 to 10 pages.

Col Vasquez is the Operations Manager with the Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) North American Service Restoration Team. He is a General Class Amateur Radio Operator, with the call sign N4YYA

He is married to Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Leslie Vazquez, a member of CAP's National Operations Team.

"I will do everything I can to assist the wings in MER be prepared for emergency service missions and to be leaders in the nation in Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs," Col Vazquez said.

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